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PATENT
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10407/852

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Miodunski et al.
Serial No.: 10/697,453 Examiner: Taylor, April A.
Filed: October 30, 2003 Group Art Unit: 2876
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR SECURELY STORING AND
CONTROLLING THE DISPENSING OF A PAYOUT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated May 7, 2004, and is timely filed within the three month statutory period.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Claims 1-105 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-105 have been objected to due to informalities. Claims 16 and 58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 1-15, 17-57, and 59-105 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-15, 17-57, and 59-105 of co-pending Application No. 09/551,680. Claims 1-9, 13-25, 29-51, 55-70, and 74-105 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Luciano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,168,521). Claims 10-12, 26-28, 52-54, and 71-73 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luciano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,168,521).

Claims 1, 3, 9, 23, 25, 30, 37, 39, 48, 61, 66, 70, 82, 91, 92, 95, and 104 have been amended for clarification purposes only. No claims have been added. Claims 16 and 58 have been deleted. Applicants respectfully contend that the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art are such that the claimed invention is patentably distinct over the prior art.